

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 SAM-01

SAJ-01 AID-05 /079 W

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O P 141035Z APR 75 ZFF-1

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8303

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2838

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, VN

SUBJECT: GREEK RECOGNITION OF NORTH VIET NAM

REFS: STATE 84182; ATHENS 2745

1. UPON RECEIPT OF DEPARTMENT'S REFTEL, DCM CALLED MFA'S DIRECTOR OF FIRST POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, GEORGE MAZARAKIS, AND TOLD HIM THAT WASHINGTON WAS MOST DISAPPOINTED BY THE GOG'S INTENTION TO RECOGNIZE NORTH VIET NAM AT TIME WHEN HANOI WAS CONDUCTING MASSIVE OFFENSIVE AGAINST SOUTHERN VIETNAM. DCM SAID THAT WE WOULD STRONGLY PREFER THAT GOG POSTPONE ANNOUNCEMENT SCHEDULED TO BE MADE APRIL 16 AND ASKED MAZARAKIS WHETHER THIS COULD BE DONE. MAZARAKIS REPLIED THAT DECISION TO PROCEED WITH ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECOGNITION WAS FIRM AND HE THEREFORE BELIEVED COULD NOT RECONSIDERED. DCM REQUESTED THAT DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS BE CONVEYED TO MINISTERIAL LEVEL OF MFA AND MAZARAKIS ASSURED HIM THAT THIS WOULD BE DONE.

2. DCM THEN CALLED DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, JOHN TZOUNIS, REVIEWED HIS DEMARCHE TO MAZARAKIS, AND
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ASKED TZOUNIS TO LOOK INTO SUBJECT PERSONALLY. TZOUNIS WAS

FAMILAR WITH US VIEWS, HAVING RECEIVED REPORT OF DCM'S PREVIOUS COMMENTS TO MAZARAKIS (ATHENS 2745), BUT BELIEVED THAT IT WAS TOO LATE TO POSTPONE ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECOGNITION SINCE GOG AND DRV HAD AGREED TO TIMING PRIOR TO RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIET NAM. DCM ASKED WHETHER GOG INTENDED TO INFORM GVN CHARGE OF ACTION PRIOR TO ANNOUNCEMENT. TZOUNIS SAID THAT THIS WOULD BE DONE APRIL 15.

3. DCM AGAIN EXPRESSED STRONG HOPE THAT GOG WOULD DEFER ANNOUNCEMENT AND ASKED TZOUNIS TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR VIEWS, AND REASONS FOR THEM, WERE CONVEYED TO FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS. TZOUNIS SAID THAT HE WOULD DO SO, ALTHOUGH HE CONTINUED TO BELIEVE THAT POSTPONEMENT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE.

4. COMMENT: NEITHER TZOUNIS NOR MAZARAKIS IS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT GOG'S DECISION TO ANNOUNCE RECOGNITION ON APRIL 16, BUT THIS WILL PROBABLY NOT RPT NOT BE ENOUGH TO OBTAIN A POSTPONEMENT OF DECISION, WHICH WAS DOUBTLESS REACHED FOR POLITICAL REASONS UNRELATED TO THE SITUATION IN VIET NAM. SINCE OUR VIEWS ARE LIKELY TO HAVE MORE WIEGHT WITH GOG THAN THOSE OF THE GVN AND GOG WILL NOT RPT NOT INFORM GVN EMBASSY OF PROPOSED ACTION UNTIL APRIL 15, WE DO NOT RPT NOT WANT TO RISK WEAKENING OUR LEVERAGE BY APPROACHING THE GVN EMBASSY BEFORE GOG DOES SO. WE WILL, HOWEVER, DISCUSS MATTER WITH GVN CHARGE AFTER GOG HAS CALLED HIM IN. KUBISCH

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